



Wombwell
Urban District Council.



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

(J. C. PICKUP, M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

FOR THE YEAR 1925.



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SUMMARY OF REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Area of Urban District	3,850 Acres.
Population at Census, 1911	17,538
Population at Census, 1921	19,035
Population estimated by Registrar-General for 1925—	
For Birth Rate....	20,530
For Death Rate....	20,530
Excess of Births over Deaths for 1925....	319
No. of Houses occupied at end of 1925....	4,001
" " " 1921....	3,707

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate	24.7 per 1,000
Recorded Death Rate	9.2
Corrected Death Rate	10.2
Death Rate—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.48
" Zymotic Diseases	0.48
" Respiratory Diseases	2.8
Infantile Death Rate	68.8 per 1,000 Nett Births.



Wombwell Urban District Council.

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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

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TOWN HALL,
WOMBWELL,
APRIL. 1926.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WOMBWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in placing before you—for your consideration—my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

The Ministry request that this Report shall be a Survey Report dealing comprehensively with the measure of progress made during the preceding 5 years, giving the extent and character of the changes made during that period in the Public Health Services and stating any further action of importance in the organisation or development of Public Health Services contemplated by the Local Authority.

Before going into the detail of the various subjects which will form the subject of this Report let us first consider many points of Public Health—as revealed by Statistics—and compare 1925 with 1920.

When I became your Medical Officer of Health in 1920 the population of Wombwell was 17,764—in 1925 it was 20,530. The difference in the death rates of the 2 years is very pleasing—being 15·1 in 1920 and 9·2 in 1925—although we must not forget that 1920 was unduly high owing to the privations of the war,—on the other hand 1925 shews the lowest death rate ever recorded in Wombwell.

The improvement in the death rate is also reflected in the Infantile Death Rate—from 101 per 1,000 births in 1920 to 68·8 per 1,000 in 1925. These figures amply justify the policy of the Government in setting up Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes.

It is also very pleasing to see the reduction in the Phthisis death rate—from 0·9 per 1,000 in 1920 to 0·48 per 1,000 in 1925.

The Zymotic Diseases rate falls from 3·1 per 1,000 in 1920 to 0·48 per 1,000 in 1925, and the Respiratory Diseases rate at 2 per 1,000 remains stationary even in spite of the severe weather of the last 3 months of 1925.

All these rates which I have stated are the ones which are best indicative of the health of the place, so it will readily be seen that there is no justification for saying that Wombwell is an unhealthy place.

The birth rate (not however indicative of a town's unhealthiness) is somewhat perturbing. the 36·1 rate of 1920 was large—owing to the return of post war tranquility, but with the continuance of the high cost of living and the lowering of wages since 1920

the difficulty of making ends meet has increased, and this reason is the greatest factor in the lowering of the birth rate (24·7 in 1925)—which is common to the whole of the country and indeed to the whole of Europe. It is not due to decrease in fertility but to deliberate restriction—rendered so by economic conditions.

Death Rate.			Infantile Death Rate.		Zymotic Death Rate.	
1925	...	9·2	...	68·8	...	0·48
1924	...	10·9	...	98·2	...	0·5
1923	...	11·6	...	114·2	...	1·04
1922	...	10·02	...	86·4	...	0·6
1921	...	13·8	...	116·	...	1·1
1920	...	15·1	...	101·	...	3·1
1919	...	15·	...	123·	...	0·82
1918	...	21·	...	107·		
1917	...	13·4	...	143·		
1916	...	14·5				

Birth Rate.			Phthisis Death Rate.		Respiratory Death Rate.	
1925	...	24·7	...	0·48	...	2·
1924	...	24·9	...	1·07	...	2·4
1923	...	24·4	...	0·54	...	2·3
1922	...	26·8	...	0·7	...	2·1
1921	...	30·8	...	0·9	...	3·
1920	...	36·1	...	0·9	...	2·
1919	...	29·	...	0·87	...	2 7
1918	...	31·				
1917						
1916						

I will now proceed to deal with matters—in the order specified in the Ministry's Appendix, adding Special Comments where necessary.

The Wombwell Urban District is divided into 5 Wards—South-East, South-West, Central, North, and Hemingfield, and is 3,850 acres in extent. The soil consists of marl and clay with a sandy sub-soil resting on the shales and sand-stones of the Coal measures. The surface is undulating and the average height above sea level is 200 feet. The L.N.E.R. and L.M.S. Railways and the Dearne and Dove Canal pass through the district. The last named is not much used, except for the transportation of coal and timber.

The chief occupations of the population are coal mining, glass bottle making, the manufacture of bye-products from coal, and engineering. But the coal mining is by far the largest source of employment. The influence of coal mining on public health shews itself mostly in the large number of men affected with Nystagmus. I say "large number," because many of those working have Nystagmus and yet a good proportion of them are unaware of its existence. The incidence of accidents is of course greatly increased.

The total amount of Poor Law Relief for the district for the past year was £4,867-1-1. The rateable value of the Township is £83,544, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £235. For the purposes of the Poor Law your district is within the Barnsley Poor Law Union, and 5 deaths occurred during the year in Asylums or Infirmaries serving that Union.

For the purposes of Infectious Diseases your Authority contribute to the maintenance of the Kendray Hospital in the Borough of Barnsley, to which, as far as possible, all cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever are removed.

During the year we have had an epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the Township, and we have experienced very great difficulty in getting these cases in the Kendray Hospital on many

occasions owing to lack of accommodation. So much so that, acting on the advice of the Ministry of Health, we have had to approach the Hemsworth Urban and Rural Joint Hospital Board with a view to having many cases admitted to their Hospital at Brierly Common

This Hospital Board has been most willing to help us and has shewn us great consideration.

Towards the close of the year your Authority had under consideration the question of fresh capital outlay for the further extension of the Kendray Hospital. But as the Barnsley Corporation could not agree to the formation of a Joint Hospital Board, and as the buildings together with any further extension would ultimately become the sole property of that Corporation, your Authority had conferences with the neighbouring Councils with a view to considering the question of petitioning the County Council for the formation of a Hospital Committee under the Isolation Hospitals Act, 1893 and 1901, or alternatively, considering the formation of a Joint Hospital Board among themselves, instead of renewing the agreement with the Barnsley Corporation—which agreement expires in 1931.

Your Authority also contribute to the maintenance of the Lundwood Smallpox Hospital in the Borough of Barnsley, and to this any case of Smallpox can at once be removed.

For Colliery accidents in your district the Beckett Hospital Barnsley is available, as it is also for other accidents, and subject to the available accommodation, for surgical and medical cases generally.

Other cases from your district are admitted to the General Hospitals of Sheffield or Leeds—these Hospitals are supported by voluntary subscriptions. For Poor Law cases the Workhouse Infirmary at Barnsley is available.

Towards the close of the year your Authority had under consideration the question of providing and maintaining an ambulance for non-infectious cases. If this scheme should mature it will prove a boon to the district.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary serving the Wombwell district is situate at Queen's Road, Barnsley.

The chief sanatoria to which patients from your district are admitted are :—

Middleton Sanatorium (Ilkley)	
Deanhead	„
Oakbank	„
Cardigan	„
Carr-gate	„
Oakwood	„
Morton Banks	„
Eldwick	„
Rawdon	„

The Dispensary and Sanatoria are subsidised by the County Council

The number of inhabited houses at the end of December last was 4,001.

During the year there were erected in the district 123 new dwelling houses

Population.

The population at the census 1921 was 19,035 and the average number of persons per house 5·2

Calculated by the Registrar General's method the estimated population for 1925 is 20,530, and the average number of persons per house 5·1.

Your Authority (although administering the Notification of Births Act and Maternity and Child Welfare Act) has not yet been able to make any arrangements for providing a Maternity Home. A conference is shortly to be held with the County Council with a view to such provision.

The Childrens Hospital at Sheffield admits many cases from your district—others go to one or other of the General Hospitals above mentioned.

There is no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the area, other than the Union Infirmary at Barnsley.

Ambulance Facilities.

For infectious cases the Kendray Hospital at Barnsley provides the ambulance for conveyance of infectious cases from your district to that hospital.

Non-Infectious Cases.

There is no ambulance—other than the Colliery Ambulances for purely colliery cases—provided for non-infectious cases.

Your Authority is considering the question of providing one—as stated elsewhere in this Report.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

	Situation.	Nature of Accommodation.	Provided by.
Wombwell Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	Free Library	2 rooms	Wombwell Council
Jump Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	Jump Council School	1 large room	do.
Day Nurseries	NIL.		
School Clinics	Free Library	2 rooms	County Council
Tuberculosis Dispensary	Queen's Road, Barnsley	Whole Building	do.
Venereal Clinic	do.	do.	do.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

There were registered during the year 508 births (253 males and 255 females) giving a birth rate of 24·7 per 1,000 of the population.

This shews a decrease on 1924 when the birth rate was 24·9 per 1,000.

I have already in this Report stated the cause for the lowering birth rate.

The birth rate for England and Wales for the past year was 18·3.

The distribution in the Wards is as follows ;—

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.	Total.
Male ...	52	62	48	43	50	255
Female ...	55	56	48	35	59	253
	107	118	96	78	109	508

Of the total births 24 (13 males and 11 females) or 4·7 per cent. were registered as being illegitimate. One of the illegitimate children (a male) died within the year, the cause of death being Marasmus.

The number of illegitimate infantile deaths represents a rate of 41·6 per 1,000 illegitimate births as against an infantile death rate of 68·8 per 1,000 births.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths amounted to 189, including 29 deaths of residents dying outside the district and excluding 8 non-residents who died in this district. They consisted of 99 males and 90 females. Distributed into Wards they were as follows :—

S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
40	34	38	41	36

This gives a total death rate of 9·2 per 1,000 which as previously stated, is the lowest ever recorded in your district. One factor which influences the death rate a little is the low birth rate—a high birth rate results in the presence of a large number of persons at the early years of life at which the death rate is high, therefore a lower birth rate results in the greater absence of a large number of persons at the early years of life at which the death rate is high.

But even taking these facts into consideration, the death rate is very low and very pleasing.

The average for the last 10 years is 13·4 per 1,000

The death rate last year for England and Wales was 12·2 per 1,000.

There were 6 enquiries held by the Coroner. Of still-born babies there were 15 interred at Wombwell Cemetery and none at Hemingfield Cemetery.

The natural increase for the year, or the excess of births over deaths is 319.

Infantile Mortality.

Under 1 year of age the deaths amounted to 35, being 15 less than 1924.

The death rate is 68·8 per 1,000 births and is much less than in previous years.

It is—for the first time—lower than that of England and Wales which for the past year was 75.

The causes of the Infantile Deaths were:—

Immaturity	...	...	...	...	12
Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	3
Hydrocephalus	...	...	...	...	2
Icterus Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1
Asphyxia...	...	...	...	...	1
Spina Bifida	...	...	...	...	1
Carbuncle	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1
					35

This lowering of the Infantile Death Rate is very satisfactory and points to a greater knowledge on the part of the present day mother of how to bring up her children. This in turn is no doubt greatly due to the work of the Health Visitors and to the work of the Infant Welfare Clinics.

Ward Statistics.

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.	Total
Approximate Population	3753	4671	4023	3514	4569	20530
All Deaths	40	34	38	41	36	189
Births	107	118	96	78	109	508
Death Rate	10·6	7·2	9·4	11·6	7·8	9·2
Birth Rate	26·6	25·2	23·8	22·1	23·8	24·7
Infantile Deaths ...	8	8	4	9	6	35
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 births ...	74·7	67·7	41·6	115·3	55·04	68·8
Illegitimate Births ...	4	6	4	4	6	24

Zymotic Diseases.

There were 10 deaths from Zymotic diseases equal to a death rate of 0·48 per 1,000. The causes of these Zymotic deaths were as follow :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	6
Smallpox	...	...	...	Nil.
Measles	...	...	...	Nil.
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	Nil.

Under the Infectious Disease Notification Act there were notified 331 cases of infectious disease as follow :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	180
Diphtheria	...	...	...	8
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	6
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	14
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	48
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	...	...	4
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...	34
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	...	...	...	30

Distribution in the Wards.

			S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.	Total.
Diphtheria	...	...	3	1	1	1	2	8
Erysipelas	...	...	2	4	4	2	2	14
Scarlet Fever	...	...	69	39	30	22	20	180
Enteric Fever	...	...	1	2	1	2	0	6
Puerperal Fever	...	...	0	1	0	1	3	5
Pneumonia	...	...	8	3	4	5	28	48

Removed to Hospital.

			S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.	Total.
Diphtheria	...	...	3	1	1	1	2	8
Scarlet Fever	...	...	64	32	28	18	17	159
Enteric Fever	...	...	1	2	1	2	—	6
Smallpox	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	180	159	1
Diphtheria ...	8	8	1
Enteric Fever ...	6	6	—
Puerperal Fever	5	1	1
Pneumonia ...	48	—	20

Case rate of Infections Diseases per 1,000 during 1925.

	WOMBWELL.	ENGLAND & WALES.
Smallpox ...	Nil.	0·14
Scarlet Fever ...	8·7	2·36
Diphtheria ...	0·38	1·23
Enteric Fever ...	0·28	0·07
Puerperal Fever	0·24	0·06
Erysipelas ...	0·67	0·39

Scarlet Fever.

During the year there were notified 180 cases of Scarlet Fever, 159 of which were removed to Hospital.

The epidemic commenced in the South-West Ward at the beginning of the year with a mild case which went undetected till the skinning stage. By this time other cases had developed and had spread to a street where the houses were very overcrowded (in the South-East Ward) and second, third and even more cases developed in the same house. Owing to the cases being of a mild type some of them had remained undetected, and were actually playing out of doors along with other children when discovered.

Public notices were posted throughout the town advising parents to immediately call in a doctor at the onset of even a slight sore throat or rash.

I reported to you one case which—whilst full out in a rash—was sent an errand by its parents. The parents were summoned to appear before the Sanitary Committee and censured.

The epidemic reached its highest about the month of August and was mainly confined to the South-East and South-West Wards.

A report on the epidemic was supplied to the Ministry of Health and owing to the difficulty of getting the cases into the Kendray Hospital, the Ministry suggested approaching a neighbouring Authority so as to get such cases in there which could not be taken into the Kendray Hospital. This is referred to and dealt with earlier in this Report.

Whilst we were experiencing difficulty in getting the Scarlet Fever cases into Hospital, I detailed one of the Nurses off to visit them daily in their houses and apply the "Milne" treatment—which at any rate by frequent visits served the purpose of better ensuring the isolation of the cases.

Some Authorities suggest that the "Milne" treatment (by tending to close the pores of the skin) increases the incidence of Post Scarlatinal Nephritis. None of our cases having this treatment developed Nephritis—in fact the only one who developed it did not have this treatment at all.

The end of the year saw the epidemic almost died out. There was only one death and this was due to the child developing Post Scarlatinal Diphtheria.

The 180 cases which were reported during the year occurred in 140 houses

One house had 7 cases, one had 5, 2 had 4 each, 5 had 3 each, and 14 houses had 2 cases each.

The house with the 7 cases and 2 houses with 3 cases each and 4 of the houses with 2 cases each were overcrowded to the extent that they all had an average of more than 2 persons per room.

The rest of the houses had an average of between 1 and 2 persons per room.

The following tables shew the extent of overcrowding or otherwise of the houses in which cases of Scarlet Fever occurred—one table showing those treated at home and the other those removed to hospital.

Treated at Home.

From houses with an average of under 1 person per room.	From houses with an average of between 1 and 2 persons per room.	From houses with an average of more than 2 persons per room.
7	14	Nil.

Removed to Hospital.

From houses with an average of under 1 person per room.	From houses with an average of between 1 and 2 persons per room.	From houses with an average of more than 2 persons per room.
6	115	38

Enteric Fever.

There were 6 cases and NO deaths. They were evenly distributed throughout the town. Most of the cases had a history of eating shell fish. Whenever a case has occurred in a house where the sanitary convenience was a privy, this privy has been converted to a water closet, notwithstanding that such privy was not on the list for conversion at the time. As the privies get converted, the less we shall have Enteric Fever.

In my report of 1920 I drew attention to my detection of a Typhoid Carrier in the Hemingfield Ward, who had infected 12 other cases in the same yard in $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, 3 or 4 of whom had died. I am pleased to say that since this case was detected and treated at the hospital no further cases have occurred in that yard although 5 years have elapsed.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

There were 8 cases and 1 death. The cases were evenly distributed throughout the town.

Free supplies of Antitoxin are always available at the Town Hall for the use of all the Doctors.

Smallpox, Anthrax, Rabies, Malaria and Trench Fever.

NO cases of these diseases occurred during the year.

NO vaccinations have been undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health.

Towards the end of the year Smallpox broke out in several adjacent districts but no case had occurred in your district up to the close of the year.

As "Efficient Vaccination" is the only sure safeguard against Smallpox it is deplorable to think that less than 50% of the children in Wombwell are vaccinated—and many of them with only one mark

It is a sentimental fad to talk about personal liberty where the health and lives of our neighbours are concerned in our condition as to susceptibility to Smallpox, and in a country with rate paid compulsory education.

Incalculable as is the value of vaccination as a protection against Smallpox, yet a value even more widely searching than this is seen in the light now falling upon the field of Prophylaxis, and not of Prophylaxis only, but also of cure.

Jenner opened the door to a whole realm of Therapeutics^p which we are now only beginning to survey in part.

The folly of the "antivac" even if he shouted from the house-top would be but as idle wind in a country where men possessed some little knowledge or still better were trained in the scientific spirit.

Jenner in his sleep little ~~thinks~~^{knows} of our praise or blame; he is beyond these voices. But the blight of our neglect of him and of great men like him falls not on them but on us, who lose in this apathy the glow of enthusiasm which should inspire us, their children to see the visions which they saw and to follow in their steps.

Disinfection.

Disinfection of the houses was carried out methodically (after the removal of a case of acute Infectious Disease or at the termination of the illness) by fumigation and spraying with formalin, while infected clothing was washed with Izal, and in certain cases the infected clothing was removed to the steam disinfector at the Ken-ray Hospital.

Your Authority ought to have a steam disinfector of your own. It is most necessary, as it is the only absolutely reliable method of disinfection there is. We should always have plenty of use for it and I hope soon the money can be found to purchase one. We are not up to date without one.

Influenza

Influenza was most prevalent in January, February and March. There were 4 deaths and these were evenly distributed as regards age, group and locality.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Two cases were reported and one was removed to Hospital where he died. Another case died from this ailment during the year but the notification of the case occurred in the previous year.

Respiratory Diseases.

There were 43 deaths from diseases of the respiratory tract—7 less than 1924—22 from Bronchitis and 20 from Pneumonia and one other respiratory disease. This is equal to a rate of 2 per 1,000.

Circulatory Disease.

11 deaths occurred from diseases of the heart (27 in 1924). This is equal to a rate of 0·53 per 1,000.

Cancer.

Cancer caused 14 deaths (10 in 1924) which gives a rate of 0·67 per 1,000. The increase in the number of deaths from Cancer is very distressing—in 1923 eleven per cent. of all deaths in England and Wales were due to it—and the problem of trying to find the cause or causes of Cancer is the greatest one confronting the Medical Profession throughout the world to-day. Some advance has been made in that direction but we are yet far from having got anything definite. We are sure that Cancer can be got by irritation and we are equally certain that Cancer can be cured by Surgery—but only if got in the very early stages. Our efforts should therefore

—till we get further light on the subject—be directed to educating the people to seek Medical aid immediately they have any suggestive symptoms. The distribution of leaflets giving particulars of suggestive symptoms would be helpful.

Phthisis and other Tuberculous Diseases.

Phthisis and other Tuberculous Diseases caused 20 deaths which is 7 less than 1924 and 9 less than 1920.

The Phthisis death rate is 0·48 per 1,000 (0·9 in 1920).

It is gratifying to have a much smaller number of notifications of Tuberculosis during the year—64 as against 107 the previous year. More especially gratifying when it is accompanied by a lessened death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis.

The death rate as I have always pointed out to you is a much more correct guide as to the increase or otherwise of Tuberculosis in the district than the number of notifications of the disease.

I think the people are keeping their windows open rather more than they used to do, but there is great room for further improvement yet.

With the houses so overcrowded it is essential to open the windows more than ever. Fresh air and sunlight are the two great enemies of Tuberculosis—the bacillus of Tuberculosis soon dies when exposed to sunshine.

Many lives would be saved and many people prevented from developing Tuberculosis at all if only people valued fresh air and sunlight as they should do.

The fact that fresh air is “free” and unlimited in quantity seems to detract from its value—at any rate many people have their windows “made up” altogether.

The great problem in Tuberculosis is the care of the "contact." It is obvious that without plenty of fresh air and sunshine many of these "contacts" develop into actual cases of Tuberculosis.

Each case of Tuberculosis notified is visited and a leaflet of instructions left, and where necessary a sputum flask is provided. Patients are advised where possible to attend at the Tuberculosis Dispensary at Barnsley.

The dispensary acts as a receiving station, and after confirming or otherwise the diagnosis, sorts them out for the proper treatment appropriate for each case whether for Sanatorium, for Dispensary, or for Domiciliary treatment.

To complete the scheme however, all "contacts" ought to be examined and doubtful cases or debilitated cases sent to a Home to get "built up"—on the principle that "prevention is better than cure"

The chief value of Sanatoria is educational—teaching the patient the kind of life he should aim at carrying out. Alas, what do we find in actual practice? The patient comes from Sanatorium to his more or less insanitary surroundings—perhaps with every intention to carry out the lesson he learnt in the Sanatorium—and owing to overcrowding in his house, &c. he quickly falls back into his former mode of life and much of the good derived while in the institution is thrown away. This is a great flaw in the scheme for treatment of Tuberculosis.

Probably—in the near future—the greatest step forward in the treatment of Tuberculosis will come from Bacteriology and will take the form of producing immunity, like vaccination does against Smallpox.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT							NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD.					Total cases re- moved to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At ages in years.					65 and up- wards	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65							
Scarlet Fever ...	180	1	42	117	16	4		69	39	20	22	20	159
Encephalitis Lethargica	2				1	1					1	1	1
Puerperal Fever ...	5					5			1		1	3	1
Erysipelas ...	14				3	10	1	2	4	4	2	2	
Enteric Fever ...	6			2		4		1	2	1	2		6
Diphtheria ...	8		2	5		1		3	1	1	1	2	8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4							1		2		1	
Pneumonia ...	48	7	19	11	2	6	3	8	3	4	5	28	
Tuberculosis ...	64		4	33	9	18		7	13	8	9	27	

During the year 1925-95 specimens were sent to the County Hall, Wakefield, for bacteriological examination as follow :—

Widal.	Sputum.	Diphtheria.	Ringworm.	Milk.	Other.
30	16	43	2	2	2

Water Supply.

The water supply of the district is obtained mainly from artesian wells supplemented by a reservoir with a natural supply.

The water is of a pure quality and has NO plumbo-solvent action as a large amount of lime salts are in solution and it is practically free from possibilities of contamination.

The water is extremely hard (38 degrees Clark's process) and should on that account be chemically treated were it not for the fact that within 12 months the Water Board will be connected up to, and taking a large additional quantity of water from the Sheffield Corporation (which is a soft water) and these two waters will be mixed.

The quantity of water then available should be sufficient for the needs of the town.

The supply of water to all parts of the town has been more regular than in previous years.

Towards the end of the year I had to complain to you of the dirty condition of the water extending over a large period. Since the complaint was passed on to the Water Board the water has been very much better.

Should the dirty condition of the water occur again I will take up the matter with increased vigour.

Much inconvenience is caused by the Water Board not infrequently turning off the water without warning—for a whole day at a time when they have only minor burst pipes, etc. It would be much better if due warning were given to the householders before turning off the water.

Rivers and Streams.

No new pollution of any rivers or streams was noticed during the year, but there has been for years evidence of Solids in suspension in Bullens Dyke—coming from the Bye-products works of a colliery.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage systems throughout the district is for the most part satisfactory and during the year the existing sewers have been extended in Summer Lane Extension, King's Road Housing Scheme, Tingle Bridge and Birks Lane Hemingfield.

All these sewers are 9" diameter except one in King's Road Housing Scheme which is 12" diameter.

The new sewerage works at New Scarboro' which were completed are working very efficiently, as will be seen from the report of the sewage works manager—which is appended towards the end of this book.

I am indebted for the following information on housing to your surveyor—Mr. W. Quest.

During the year 19 houses have been built and occupied in Summer Lane, 2 on King's Road, 2 on Barnsley Road, 2 in Kelvin Grove, and 2 in Dovecliffe Road and 2 in Cemetery Road, Jump.

All these 29 were built by private enterprise and 24 of them were eligible for the Government Subsidy under the Housing Act of 1923 and received the grant. The remaining 5 were ineligible as they did not comply with the Conditions laid down in the Act.

6 houses were built in Broomhead Road by the Dearne District Light Railways Committee, and subsidies were also granted for these.

Seventy-four houses have been built on King's Road Housing Site together with fourteen houses built on the Hemingfield Housing Site all of which are eligible for the Government Subsidy.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Schools in this district is on the whole only moderate.

Some of the Schools have a very insufficient number of water closets and the attention of the Education Authorities has been directed to this. Where closets have been in need of repair—only minor repairs were necessary—the attention of the Education Authorities has been drawn to them and the repairs carried out.

All the Schools receive their water from the town's supply.

The attendance officers and Head Teachers notify me of the first cases of infection recurring in their schools.

There were no closures of any of the classes, but the practice of individual exclusion was resorted to with satisfactory results.

One of the Nurses was put on to visit the cases of measles that came to our notice and also those cases of Scarlet Fever which

were treated at home. This has been referred to earlier in this report under the heading of Scarlet Fever.

All the Schools have been thoroughly and regularly disinfected by spraying with Formalin during each holiday.

The work of the School Clinics and School Inspection is administered by the County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Your Authority have two Maternity and Child Welfare Centres within the district for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under 5 years of age.

One—commenced in 1916—is held at the Free Library, Wombwell, on Tuesday Afternoons. The other—commenced in 1917—is held at the Council Schools, Jump on Thursday afternoons

Every baby—on first coming to the Clinic—is weighed by the Nurse and its weight (together with other particulars) entered on a chart. It is seen by the Doctor who examines it and gives advice, or any treatment necessary.

Its condition and history is recorded on the chart and referred to each time it visits the Clinic.

Every month the baby is seen by the Doctor even if it is going on satisfactorily. If not doing well it is seen by the Doctor on each visit to the Clinic.

The centres are—on the whole—well attended and are productive of much good.

I am quite sure that the repeated visits paid by the Health Visitors to the homes and the attendances at the Centres have played some part in the lowering of the Infantile Mortality Rate.

I think that the introduction of very short addresses to the mothers at the Centres by the Nurses would be instructive and useful.

Frankly, I am disappointed with the poor attendances at the Ante-Natal part of the work at the Centres.

If we are to fully tackle the subject of the loss of Infant life, we ought and must get the mother coming for advice long before her baby is born.

When we consider that one-third of the Infant Mortality takes place in the first month of life and one-fifth during the first week it is absolutely essential to get the mother for advice whilst her child is at the earliest period of intra-uterine life, so that it will be born and commence life without a handicap.

The midwives can and ought to do much in this direction—by persuading the expectant mothers to attend at the Centre or better still by accompanying them to the Clinic.

At the Wombwell Centre there have attended 2,178 mothers and children, a weekly average of 50.6. 198 new babies have joined, of these 180 were under 1 year, and 18 over that age. The Doctor examined 417 children at this Centre during the year—an average of 9.6 per session.

At the Jump Centre 69 new babies have joined during the year,—60 of these were under 1 year and 9 over that age. There were 960 attendances at this Centre—an average of 22.3 weekly, and 227 children were examined by the Doctor—an average of 5.2 per session.

Tea and light refreshment are provided at both Centres for Mothers at practically cost price.

Various dried milk foods, Virol, Cod Liver-Oil, Emulsion, etc. are supplied at reasonable cost for suitable cases, and in cases of destitution food is supplied free.

As yet your Authority has made no arrangements for a Maternity Home and cases needing operative treatment are admitted in to the Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield. Young children are taken in at the Children's Hospital Sheffield.

No special arrangements are made in this area for treatment for children under 5 years of age.

Under the Notification of Births Act the following births were notified during 1925 :-

By Midwives.	...	428
By Doctors.	...	42
Not Notified	...	17
		487

The number of Un-notified births (17) formed 3.4% of the total births. There was no wilful neglect to notify.

The Health Visitors attend at the home a few days after the birth of the baby and keep in close touch with the mother until she is getting about. She is then advised to bring her baby to the Centre.

All cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are attended by the Health Visitors who ensure proper treatment being carried out according to the instructions of the Doctor attending.

Deaths in Infants under 1 year and all still births are investigated by the Health Visitors and recorded on index cards for reference.

Puerperal Fever.

5 cases of this disease were notified and there was 1 death.

The Midwives engaged on these cases were stopped from attending other cases till their clothes, bags and instruments were disinfected.

Maternal Mortality.

Three mothers died during the year either at the time of actual confinement or as the result of confinement. The causes of the deaths of the two who died at confinement were Placenta Praevia and Ante Partum Hæmorrhage and the cause of the third death was Puerperal Fever.

There were 487 births (under the Notification of Births Acts)

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

4 cases were notified and in no cases were the eyes damaged.

Cases Notified.	Cases Treated at Home.	Cases Treated in Hospital.	Vision unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
4	4		4			

Diarrhoea.

There were 6 deaths from this disease. The comparative coolness of the latter part of the summer was one of the chief causes of the small number of cases.

Flies undoubtedly carry the organisms of this disease on their legs and as they frequent middens and other filth they transport organisms of diarrhoea to food and milk.

The importance of a crusade against flies cannot be exaggerated.

On account of this danger each house ought to have ample accomodation for the proper storage of food where it can be covered over to free it from contamination. It should be situated in a cool part of the house. The open ashpit should give way to the covered bin and all burnable refuse put on the fire. Privies should be converted to the water carriage system and the yards should be paved. A good plan to keep the flies out of the house is to have muslin covers over the open windows. Those flies in the house could be kept down in number by the free use of fly paper or fly swats.

Grade A Milk—on account of the low content of bacteria—particularly of the intestinal type, is much better than ordinary milk and should be strongly encouraged in the district.

Now that one firm is licensed to sell it within the township, I hope to see Grade A Milk become very popular, and particularly I hope to see our own Milk Producers go in for it. Several of them could do so—with a little extra effort.

Whooping Cough.

There were 2 deaths from this disease.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

No case was reported.

Measles.

Measles caused no deaths. The cases occurred mostly in the South-East and South-West Wards and as many of them were in the summer, they were not followed by Pneumonia, like they would have been had the weather been severe.

The Schools were not closed, but individual exclusion was resorted to with success. Most of the cases occurred under five years of age. One Health Visitor was put on to visit the cases where necessary.

Public Health Officer of the Local Authority.

The Health Department consists of the Medical Officer of Health who is a part time officer and is paid wholly by your Authority. He holds the Diploma of Public Health (having obtained this at the University of Leeds during 1925) and is the Poor Law Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Wombwell District of the Barnsley Union. He is not now engaged in Private Practice.

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole time officer and is paid by your Authority plus a grant from the Exchequer. He holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Three Health Visitors (two of whom are employed half-time by the County Council).

Superintendant Nurse holds C.M.B. Certificate.

Second Nurse holds the C.M.B. Certificate, General Hospital Training Certificate and the Health Visitors Certificate.

Third Nurse holds the C.M.B. Certificate.

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

A district Nurse is employed to serve the whole township, and is provided by a Voluntary agency—the Wombwell Town Land Trust.

Infectious Disease.

In times of epidemic, e.g., measles, one of the Health Visitors is detailed off for the house visiting of these cases.

Midwives.

The number of midwives practising in Wombwell is 10, 6 of these are qualified by examination. There is no subsidy to any of the midwives by your Authority.

Sanitary Inspector.

The work consists of the ordinary work of the office as defined by the Sanitary Officers Order 1922.

The Sanitary Inspector follows up all notifications of infectious disease, fully investigating each case and furnishing the Medical Officer with a report which is filed for reference. He arranges for removal of the case to Hospital and carries out the necessary disinfection of the premises. Inspections are regularly carried out upon Houses, Premises, Slaughterhouses, Workshops, Cowsheds, Schools, Canal Boats and Vans. Food inspection of all kinds and destruction of condemned foodstuffs are within his duties.

All nuisances reported are followed up until remedied.

Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, and Regulations.

The following have been adopted by the Council:—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890	)	ACTS.
" " " " 1907		
Infectious Disease Prevention Act 1890	)	
Notification of Births Act 1907		
Private Street Works Act 1892		
Public Health Act 1925		

Tents, Vans and Sheds, 12th August, 1900	}	BYELAWS.
Nuisances, 13th February, 1899		
New Streets and Buildings, 13th February, 1899		
Hackney Carriages & Omnibuses, 25th April, 1914		
Slaughterhouses, 10th November, 1898		

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 10th September, 1907.

REGULATIONS.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year several of the works with boiler chimneys were visited. NO marked nuisance from smoke at any time was noticed and no action was taken.

NO local reading of atmospheric impurities were recorded.

The smoke problem is one that is beset with difficulties.

In this district—purely colliery—the boiler fuel is practically all coal, and many of the boilers are of the older pattern—with NO mechanical feeders, so everything practically devolves upon the human element—the stoker. The greatest offender—in emitting black smoke—during the year was a colliery chimney just outside the Urban District.

But even then we have the problem of the domestic chimney which produces over 50% of the smoke pollution.

Till gas fires get more general and till electricity gets cheap enough to permit of the larger use of electric fires, we cannot hope for much improvement in the pollution from the domestic chimney.

The smoke pollution in the atmosphere “fouls” the lungs of the inhabitants which then are less sensitive to dangerous germs and are unable to put up an effective defence against them, the result being that many diseases—such as Bronchitis, Pneumonia, or Tuberculosis are more apt to supervene.

We are now only beginning to realize the immense benefit we get from certain rays of the sun both in the prevention and cure of disease—such as Tuberculosis or in any other diseases—yet the very rays we need most are those which won't penetrate a “smoky atmosphere.”

Wherever, therefore, there is much smoke the amount of active sunlight is reduced and this sunlight starvation is one of the important causes of Rickets in children, as well as of Tuberculosis and Anæmia. This explains the great prevalence of these diseases in our industrial areas compared with other districts, and points to the need of doing something to remove the smoke cloud which hovers between the industrial area dweller and the sun and deprives him of the energising and protective influence of those wonderful ultra violet rays.

And not only does sunlight prevent disease—it cures as has been demonstrated by Dr. Rollier in his Sanatorium in Switzerland. But to cure, the ultra violet rays must play upon the naked skin and stir up the blood and tissue cells to expel the invader and throw off the diseased tissue and substitute for it normal healthy tissue. Sun cure in industrial England is practically unknown and indeed is impossible because so much of the valuable solar radiations are absorbed by smoke. Here is another reason why the present method of using coal should be revised and a real attempt made to discover a means of obtaining heat which will be smokeless.

Milk.

The milk produced within or brought into this area is sufficient in quantity for the needs of the people. The milk is for the most part of good quality.

Although the state of the byres—speaking generally—shows a steady improvement, yet many of them are yet much below the standard required. The condition of the cattle and the general cleanliness of the methods of milking leave much to be desired.

There are 20 farms in the Wombwell area, all of which keep dairy cows.

The number of sheds at each farm vary from one to six, and the total number in use at present is 49.

The number of cows kept at each farm vary from one to thirty, for the whole district.

The average total number of cows is 220.

At a recent inspection of the cowsheds the following is a summary of the general conditions:—

NO shed absolutely conforms to the standard set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

There are, however, 8 sheds which can be considered to comply with the above with the exception of width of cowshed and other minor details.

28 sheds could be made quite reasonable if additional lighting was provided, floors were relaid or grouted with cement, and walls were made impervious to a height of 5 ft.

5 sheds will require extensive alterations in order to make them come up to a reasonable standard in order to prevent contamination of the milk.

8 sheds are altogether unsuitable on account of lack of height, lighting, ventilation, drainage, bad floors and walls, and width of building.

A number of sheds were overcrowded but not to any great extent. The number of cows kept in each shed varies from time to time but it is my intention to place over the doorway of each shed a board stating the number of cows for which air space is provided.

VENTILATION.

Permanent	...	39		Nil	...	...	10
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Several of the latter have "Hit and Miss" Vents.

LIGHTING.

Adequate	...	15		Deficient	...	27
None	...	7				

FLOOR.

Concrete	...	17		Bricks	...	2
Sets or Flags	...	30				

WALLS.

Fairly Smooth	...	17		Rough	...	30
Wood	...	2				

DRAINAGE.

Drain	...	28		Into Yard	...	21
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ROOF.

Open	...	18		Loft	...	31
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FEEDING PASSAGE.

Feeding Passage	16		No Feeding Passage	33
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MANURE HEAP.

Removed daily to 30 yards distance	...	28
Dumped in yard	...	21

WIDTH OF SHED

20' and over	...	...	...	4
18' and under 20'	...	...	...	15
16' and under 18'	...	...	...	8
14' and under 16'	...	...	...	13
12' and uuder 14'	...	...	...	7
Under 12'	...	...	...	2

A detailed statement on every cowshed has been drawn up and will shortly be submitted to the Sanitary Committee.

It is proposed to give each cowkeeper a printed list of each improvement which he will be required to carry out, to meet the requirement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

14 samples of milk were taken during the year and 3 of these were found to have added water. Prosecutions were instituted and the cases were entered for hearing during January, 1926.

The samples for chemical analysis are sent to the West Riding County Analyst (Mr. Richardson at Bradford) as the West Riding County Council is the Authority for the administration of the Food and Drugs Acts

The milk supply produced in the district is safeguarded from Tubercular infection by a half-yearly inspection of the cows by an appointed Vetermary Surgeon

Of the samples of milk taken for Bacteriological examination one proved to be positive and the animal was destroyed on the farm and the carcass sent to the knacker's yard.

Only one license was granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923. This was in the last month of the year and was for Grade A. Up to the end of the year no Grade A milk had actually been sold in this township.

There has been no refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licenses for graded milk during the year.

No apparatus is used in the district for pasteurisation of milk.

A meeting of the Milk Producers of the district and the Sanitary Committee of your Council is to take place early in the new year when it is hoped to interest the farmers more in the production of Graded Milk.

A lot of dried milk and tinned milk is used in the district. The dried milk preparations are used greatly by the mothers for their babies attending the two Infant Welfare Centres.

This has no doubt diminished the deaths from Diarrhœa as the food—having to be freshly made—is not so long exposed to flies as is cows milk when in an uncovered jug.

If however the local farmers can be persuaded to produce Grade A Milk—and I am convinced that many of them can with very little extra effort and little more initiative—it would be better for the health of everyone because Graded Milk has a much less Bacterial content and yet contains the valuable Vitamins which are so necessary for health. The Vitamins are apt to get destroyed in the manufacture of dried milk preparations, and in the boiling of milk.

That milk should require boiling, pasteurising, or submission to any other process for the purpose of removing dangerous germs and making it a safe food for adult or child is a reproach to the whole milk trade, and a reflection on the responsiveness of the modern farmers and dairymen to progressive influences.

The truth of this statement is winning its way into the minds of producers and distributors alike, and a revolution is slowly taking place in byre and milkshop.

The open pail, the unlocked churn, and the handcan will soon be relegated to the shelves of the museum and in their place will be seen the covered pail, the locked churn, and the sealed bottle.

Food.

The meat is regularly inspected at the time of slaughter so far as is possible at the ten different slaughter-houses.

The inspection would be much easier as well as much more efficient if there were one Public Abattoir instead of the different slaughter-houses.

There was one seizure of unsound meat during the year.

This was a portion of a carcase of Tubercular beef from a stall.

In subsequent proceedings the Vendor was fined £10 and costs.

Later in the year a quantity of unsound mussels exposed for sale at a shop was seized and the Council instituted proceedings against the shopkeeper. A fine of £5 and costs was inflicted in this case.

In addition to the above, 45 unsound Rabbits, 50lbs. of unsound Beef, and one barrel of Pomegranites were surrendered.

All the seized and surrendered food was destroyed by burning

In accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, your Authority has assisted the stall holders to cover up 3 sides of their stalls—only leaving open the side which is used for the sale of the meat. Several of the meat shops have their windows closed and all vehicles carrying meat are either closed or if open have the meat wrapped up.

As soon as the Meat Regulations became operative the Council supplied each butcher in the Township with a copy of the regulations and drew their special attention to Section 8—requiring them to give notice of the time of slaughter.

Two of the slaughterhouses which were used for making up food-stuffs have now discontinued the practice and have erected fresh premises for that purpose.

Notices were posted requiring farmers and local pig-keepers to give notice of their intention of occasional slaughter.

206 pigs were slaughtered by “cottagers” during the nine months of the year—only two of which were killed on licensed premises the remainder on allotments, yards, etc.,—every pig was examined and one whole carcase was destroyed and portions of 12 others.

Slaughter-houses.

		In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925
Registered	...	NIL.	NIL.	NIL.
Licensed	...	9	11	10
Total	...	9	11	10

Other Foods.

These are regularly inspected. The sanitary conditions of bakehouses and other premises where foods are prepared are quite satisfactory.

There has been no case of food poisoning in the district during the year.

Infectious Diseases.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Encephalitis Lethargica.
1921	35	16	12	1
1922	19	15	10	0
1923	46	14	8	0
1924	51	11	7	3
1925	180	8	6	2

* Two cases discharged from hospital (Scarlet Fever) suggested their being return cases. One who had slight Nasal discharge on return home developed a more pronounced one after the first day at home and the only other child in the house developed Scarlet Fever within 7 days thereafter.

The other case—on account of overcrowding—slept with his brother immediately on return from Hospital and this brother developed Scarlet Fever within 10 days.

The original case itself was found to have recommenced skinning on the feet. He had no ear or nose discharge.

No use has been made during the year of the Shick or Dick tests or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases. If the post of Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer were held by the one officer, these useful tests could then with advantage be better employed.

Influenza Mortality.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Deaths ...	15	8	2	8	3
Rate per 1,000	0.7	0.4	0.09	0.39	0.1

Pneumonia Mortality.

		1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Deaths	...	33	26	19	23	20
Rate per 1,000		1.6	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.99

No facilities are available in the area for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings. Baths are available at the Public Baths, but we are very badly in need of a steam disinfector for verminous clothing and infected clothing generally. As stated elsewhere in this report, our disinfection cannot be considered efficient without a steam disinfector.

The system of disinfection of premises and articles in vogue in this township is referred to elsewhere.

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1				3			1	1
5	2	3	9	5				2
10	5	4	3	3		1	1	
15	1	4			1	3	1	
20	1	2	1		1			1
25	2	2						
35	4	2		1	1			
45	3	1			1		1	
55	2	1			1			
65 and upwards						2	1	
TOTALS	20	19	13	12	5	6	5	4

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

There were 7 non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis, and 20 total Tuberculosis deaths—the ratio of the non-notified cases being 35% of the total tuberculosis deaths.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the area is efficient, no case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify being known.

Most of the non-notified Tuberculosis deaths were “non-notified” through having died outside the district, e.g., Workhouse Infirmary and etc.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

6 cases of Tuberculosis died within 6 months of notification, but 3 of them were due to Tubercular Meningitis, which is of short duration.

The work of the Tuberculosis Schemes and Venereal Disease is administered by the County Council.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 20 farms in the district at which are kept an average of 220 milk cows housed in 49 different sheds.

Generally the standard of cleanliness both of cattle and sheds is not what is desired or what, with a little more care, could be attained.

There is, however, evidence of a steady improvement and several farmers have improved their sheds by providing increased lighting and ventilation, and in come cases the legs etc. of the cattle are clipped or groomed.

The buildings are for the most part old and in no case does any one comply in all respects with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Towards the close of the year it was arranged for the Sanitary Committee to meet all the farmers in the district with a view to improving the conditions then obtaining and so produce a cleaner milk. This meeting did not take place until early in 1926.

Register of Milk Purveyors.

There are on the register 40 persons carrying on the trade as purveyors of milk. 19 of this number are farmers residing within the district. 9 of the 21 who are retail purveyors only, have their premises outside the district.

Several persons carrying on the trade are without suitable premises for cleansing and storing their milk vessels, and this has to be done in the room or kitchen used in common by other occupants of the same household.

Factories and Workshops.

There were on the register at the close of the year 18 factories and 55 workshops in the district.

The workshops consisted of:—

Dressmaking and Millinery	...	...	16
Bakehouses	...	...	9
Boot Repairing	...	...	9

Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Joinery	...	...	...	...	...	3
Motor Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	3
Picture Framing	...	...	...	...	...	2
Watch Making and Repairing	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cab Hiring Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	2
Blacksmith	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cycle Repairing	...	...	...	...	...	1
Saddlery	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stone Masonry	...	...	...	...	...	1

These were visited at intervals by the Sanitary Inspector and reported as being satisfactory.

Four occupiers were called upon to limewash and cleanse their premises.

An underground bakehouse in use at the beginning of the year has since closed down.

Offensive Trades.

There are no premises registered for Offensive Trades within the district.

In November the Council declared the businesses of Fish Frier and Rag and Bone Dealer to be Offensive Trades within the township and subsequently the Ministry of Health confirmed the Council's order which is to come into operation on the 8th of February, 1926.

SCAVENGING AND CLEANSING.

Collection.

This is carried out by the Council's own staff.

During the year 11,839 loads of dry refuse were conveyed to the tips and of 5,369 loads of night-soil, part was led on to the land for farmers use, the remainder on to the tips.

There is a reduction of 615 in the total number of loads of refuse removed which may be due to three causes:—

- (1) Publishing of Posters requiring persons to burn more refuse.
- (2) The Council's refusal to remove trade refuse except by agreement, and
- (3) The conversion of privy middens.

Of 17,208 loads removed the two motor lorries collected 4,865 and 12,343 loads were collected by 8 horses and carts.

The average number of loads removed daily is ; by carts 5.2.

The average number of loads removed daily is ; by lorries 8.7.

The approximate distances the refuse has to be hauled to the tips varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Cesspools.

There are 7 cesspools in the district which are emptied weekly and from these 590 loads of sewage were removed.

This was emptied into the sewer where possible, in other cases it was led on to the land or tips.

Dust Bins.

All the dust bins are emptied weekly.

Privy Middens.

These were emptied to suit requirements at intervals of not more than 7 days 17%, 10 days 14%, 14 days 52%, 21 days 13% over that period 4%.

Trade Refuse.

In the early part of the year the Council considered and adopted a scheme for the collection of trade refuse.

At the close of the year 44 firms has entered into an agreement with the Council for the removal of the trade waste from their respective premises.

Disposal.

All the refuse is disposed of by tipping at one of the five tips at different parts of the district.

The bulk is taken on to the tips at Broomhill and Ing's Road which is land that is under water several months of the year. The refuse dumped on these tips is covered over with at least 6 inches of soil. By this method several acres of what was useless land have been reclaimed at this end of the town.

Place	No. of Loads.	Percentage.
Broomhill Tip	5421	31.5
Ing's Tip	2380	13.8
Wombwell Main Tip	2306	13.1
Jump Tip	1977	11.5
Lundhill Sewage Farm	469	2.7
Various	564	3.3
Farmer's Land (Nightsoil)	4091	23.8

Only dry refuse is taken on to the tip at Wombwell Main.

Scavenging Costs.

The total cost amounted to £4,780 or approx. 5s. 4½d per load.

The cost of collection was £4,165.

The cost of disposal was £615, or approx. 11.2d. per load.

Average cost per house per year was £1-3-10 approx.

The average amount of refuse collected from each house during the year was 4.4 loads.

Table showing number of Loads of Nightsoil, dry refuse and sewage removed during the last five years.

	Nightsoil.	Dry Refuse.	Sewage.	Total Cost.	Cost per load.
1921	5910	10,491	2365	£5,623	6/- approx.
1922	6287	10,369	1270	£4,852	5/5 „
1923	6726	10,824	910	£4,880	5/3½ „
1924	6025	11,798	816	£4,620	4/11½ „
1925	5369	11,839	590	£4,780	5/4½ „

Closet Accommodation.

At the close of the year there were 1,713 water closets, 1,199 privies with covered middens, 107 waste water closets and 14 pail closets in the district.

During the year there were 161 privies converted into water closets and 10 new additional water closets were provided for old property where there was joint usage. 3 waste water closets were changed over to the fresh water system. 123 water closets were constructed for new houses. 1 privy midden was demolished and re-constructed on a more suitable site.

Conversion Scheme.

Satisfactory progress has been made with the Council's scheme of conversion under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907. During the year 161 conversions were carried out, the Council contributing half the cost of the actual conversions. Improvements have been made at the same time by the owners and in a number of cases the old closets were demolished and rebuilt on a more convenient site. Where there was insufficiency of accommodation new water closets have been provided.

The following table shows the progress made with the general scheme of conversion and the relative costs to the Council and owners :—

No. of Conversions.	Cost to Council.		Cost to Owners.	
	Total.	Average.	Total.	Average.
1923 ... 8	£50 6 6	£6 5 10	£64 8 6	£7 3 2
1924 ... 98	606 8 4	6 3 9	878 1 6	8 15 7
1925 ... 161	996 15 2	6 3 10	1348 0 8	7 18 7

The above conversions concerned 440 houses all of which were provided with a sanitary dust bin for refuse.

Destructor.

All the refuse collected in the township is conveyed on to the tips and covered over with soil.

I am convinced that the amount of refuse collected by the Sanitary Department could be reduced to one-third of the bulk if people would only put on the fire all their "burnable" refuse.

Repeated preaching to the people and the issue of notices shewing how the rates could be reduced if everyone burnt as much of the refuse as possible, seems to have had only little effect—not as much as one would have hoped—yet people complain of the high rates but wont themselves help to reduce them.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICTS.

The following defects were remedied in and around dwellings after interview or the serving of informal notice. There were 29 matters outstanding at the end of 1924, and these were brought forward and dealt with.

Repairs to Houses.

Made dry—Roof	...	...	87
„ Spouting	...	...	60
„ Pointing	...	...	21
Floors repaired or renewed		...	17
Plasterwork repaired or renewed		...	42
Window frames	„	„	14
Door frames	„	„	6
Fire-ranges	„	„	42
Chimneys pointed or rebuilt		...	20
Fire backs renewed	...	...	7
Sash cords	„	...	29
Coppers renewed or re-set	...	...	14
New Sinks	...	...	12
Staircase repaired	...	...	6
Locks and Fasteners	...	...	9

Drainage.

Drains reconstructed	...	...	13
„ repaired	...	...	16
„ opened out	...	...	30
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed			17
Inspection chambers	„	„	15
Vents erected or repaired	...	...	6

Sanitary Accommodation.

Water Closet Fittings repaired or renewed			105
„ „ Structural repairs	...		13
Privy Midden Structural repairs	...		9
Ashpit repairs	...	...	2
Dust Bins renewed	...	...	54

Miscellaneous.

Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...		18
Yards paved or pavements repaired	...		13
Cellar grates renewed	...	...	7
Dirty Houses	...	...	4
Manure Heaps	...	...	6
Sundry	...	...	17

Matters referred to other Departments.

Water Works	...	...	14
West Riding Education Committee	...		2
Surveyor...	...	...	16

Subsequently 33 of the above matters were dealt with by statutory notices where owners or persons concerned failed within a reasonable time to execute the works required.

30 of these notices were served under the Public Health Acts 1875, 17 in connection with houses and 13 relating to other nuisances. 24 notices were complied with and those outstanding were served towards the close of the year.

3 notices were served under the Housing Acts with the following results :—one house was rendered fit in all respects, in one case the owner decided to close the house, and one case was left outstanding, only a small part of the work required having been carried out

Closing orders were made in connection with two houses. Only one however had been vacated at the end of the year. Another house which became empty and was showing signs of serious subsidence was closed voluntarily by the owner.

At the close of the year 1925 there were 45 lots of premises where defects had not been remedied. These were carried forward for attention later.

Housing Inspection.

The total number of dwelling houses that were entered and examined was 440.

48 houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, and are included in the above.

Defects were found at 222 of these houses, 182 of which were remedied in consequence of informal notice.

15 houses were rendered fit after the service of formal notice under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

25 houses with defects not remedied have been carried forward

The number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation was 4.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	123
(b)	With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i)	By the Local Authority	88
(ii)	By other Bodies or persons	30
(iii)	Not eligible for State Assistance	5

Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	440
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925	48
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	218

Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notice

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	182
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Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 3
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—
 - (a) By Owners ... 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in persuasion of declarations by owners of intention to close ... 2

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 17
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By Owners ... 14
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... 2
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 2
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... Nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.
- (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

Upwards of 500 families are at present living either with their parents or are in lodgings on account of the housing shortage, and even in spite of the average of 5.1 persons per house there is in many cases bad overcrowding.

Your Authority has accepted tenders for a further 70 houses to be erected on the King's Road Site and upwards of 40 others are now in course of erection.

The general standard of the houses in the district compares favourably with that set out in the Ministry of Health Manual Vol: 1919

No areas were represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under Part II of the Housing Act, 1925.

Population.	Year.	Houses erected by Private Enterprise.	Houses Erected by Council.	Total Houses	Average number of persons per house.
17,764	1920			3,671	4.8
19,390	1921	4	32	3,707	5.2
19,840	1922	2	65	3,774	5.2
20,040	1923	11	22	3,807	5.2
20,380	1924	45	30	3,878 (4 being closed)	5.25
20,530	1925	35	88	4,001	5.1

No difficulty has been experienced with the working of the existing bye-laws—relating to houses, tents, vans or sheds, etc.

Posters have been issued throughout the township advocating the disposal of household refuse so far as possible by burning.

The use of "tips" is a very unsanitary method of refuse disposal and when the financial condition of the Council will allow, your Authority ought to have a Destructor or Salvage Plant.

Five years ago quite a lot of the refuse was collected by hired carting. This method has now been improved upon and to-day we have NO hired carting, but remove the refuse by the Council's own carts and 2 motor lorries.

83% of the refuse is removed at intervals of not more than 14 days, and 96% at intervals of not more than 21 days.

Lavatories.

Your Authority—some 18 months ago—erected in the centre of the town Public Lavatories and conveniences at a cost of about £1,000.

One urinal has been taken down in the Central Ward.

A public need would be met if—when the state of the finances of the town permit—small public urinals (made of glazed bricks) could be erected at different parts of the town instead of the present cast iron ones, which readily corrode and become offensive.

Table shewing progress made in Conversions of Privy Middens to Water Closets during the last 5 years :—

End of.	No. of Privies.	No. of Pail Closets.	No. of Water Closets.	No. of Waste Water Closets.	No. of Conversions
1920	1,538	14	1,012	115	23
1921	1,526	14	1,059	115	11
1922	1,503	14	1,150	115	22
1923	1,459	14	1,232	115	44
1924	1,360	14	1,416	110	98
1925	1,199	14	1,713	107	161

Sewerage.

At the commencement of the 5 years under review (1920) the Sewage Works were only capable of efficiently dealing with about 5,000 people.

New Sewerage Works—during this period—have been erected capable of dealing with 20,000 people and are working very efficiently—as will be seen from the statement of the Sewage Works Manager—whose report I append.

Sewage Works,
Wombwell,
April, 1926,

The population served by the New Searbro' Works at the present date is estimated at 15,000 persons.

The Sewage dealt with is of a very strong character equal probably to Normanton sewage which was one of the strongest tested by the Royal Commission and requires very careful treatment.

Circular Filters.

These filters are now fully mature. The insect *Achorutes Viaticus* has now become colonized on all the filters and ponding has practically ceased. And the Nitric Nitrogen figure has risen from 0.8 November 1923 to 4.00 March 1926. And there is no doubt that these filters will continue to maintain a high purification until the constitution media begins to crumble away, provided that no trade waste is allowed to enter the sewers which will prevent the *Achorutes Viaticus* from performing their function as "medium cleaners".

During September, 1925, and at the request of Mr. G. Weeks, Engineering Inspector to the Ministry of Health, insects and eggs were sent to the Neath Rural District Council as nuclei to start colonization on filters where they had not appeared naturally.

Analytical Results.

462 sets of average samples of crude sewage and final effluent have been analysed and the purification affected by the average

final effluent on the average crude sewage in the four hours oxygen absorption test was 96.36 per cent.

The average results for crude sewage and final effluent for the years 1924-5 and 1925-6 are shown below.

Results in parts per 100,000.

(Periods April 1st, 1924 to March 2nd, 1926.)

	1924—25		1925—26	
	Crude Sewage.	Final Effluent.	Crude Sewage.	Final Effluent.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours...	14·80	0·556	14·30	0·49
Nitric Nitrogen 		3·14		3·37

Standards of Purity.

The working standards which have been adopted in the Laboratory of the West Riding Rivers Board are as follow:—

A. In the absence of Nitric Nitrogen (or less than 0.1 part per 1,000).

The effluent is classed as					When the oxygen absorbed from N/80 in 4 hours at 80/F.	
Good	...	...	...	...	Not more than	0·5
Fair	...	...	...	...	Between	0·5 and 1·0
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	Between	1·0 and 2·0
Bad ...	...	...	...	...	Not more than	2·0

B. In the presence of Nitric Nitrogen (0.1 part per 100,000 or over).

The effluent is classed as					When the oxygen absorbed from N/80 in 4 hours at 80/F.	
Good	...	...	...	...	Not more than	1·0
Fair	...	...	...	...	Between	1·0 and 2·0
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	Between	2·0 and 2·5
Bad ...	...	...	...	...	More than	2·5

Sludge Disposal.

The estimated weight of wet sludge dealt with on the land area during the year is 4,000 tons, whose average moisture is 93.00 per cent.

The estimated weight of wet sludge dealt with on the lagoon area during the year is 160 tons, whose average moisture is 80.00 per cent. This sludge is removed by farmers etc. from the works.

D. H. ROBERTSON,

Sewage Works Manager.

Lundhill Sewage Disposal Works.

A large pump has been installed at the Sewage Works at Lundhill which will be able to deal more efficiently with the Sewage from part of the South-East Ward.

The Sanitary Committee has had under consideration the condition of these works—which are showing signs of “wear and tear.” A large portion of the effluent has to be dealt with by irrigation—there being only one percolating filter in use.

The Council will—in the near future—have to relay the sewer running between Tingle Bridge and the Sewage Works as investigation shews portion of the sewer to have subsided.

My thanks are due to the Surveyor for particulars relating to new houses, sewer extensions, and for the Sewage Works Manager's Report.

Particularly do I wish to thank the Sanitary Inspector for the most valuable help which he has so ungrudgingly rendered to me throughout the year, and also for his assistance in the compilation of many of the statistics contained in this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. PICKUP.

